

ISAC Meeting – June 14-16, 2011

ACTION OR INFORMATION ITEM

SPONSOR (Name/Email): Peter Alpert / palpert@bio.umass.edu

TOPIC: Climate change, natural resources, and invasion of semi-arid grassland

SPEAKER (Name/Email): Dana Blumenthal / dana.blumenthal@ars.usda.gov

1. DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM:

Dr. Dana Blumenthal of the Agricultural Research Service in Fort Collins, Colorado, is a leading researcher on the spread of introduced species in North American prairies. His published work has helped show how high levels of soil fertility can promote invasion, especially in the absence of effective predators and parasites, and how rangelands and abandoned farmlands can be managed to counter this effect. Some of his newest work tests how climate change is likely to further modify invasion in the region. This will require further adaptation of management methods and practices to control invasive species, and now is the time to start building this into management plans for the High Plains.

2. WHY IS THIS ITEM IMPORTANT TO NISC / ISAC? HOW IS IT RELATED TO THE NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN?

This item develops the specific topic for the meeting in June 2011. More generally, learning first-hand about new research on climate change and invasion will help NISC and ISAC stay at the forefront of this key aspect of controlling invasive species. The item contributes to Implementation Task EDRR. 3.3. and Performance Elements R.1.1.1 and CM.1.1.2.

3. PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN BY NISC / ISAC ON THIS ITEM:

None.

4. ACTION REQUESTED OF NISC / ISAC:

Schedule 30-minute presentation on June 14 or 16 at meeting in Denver in June 2011; no travel funds are requested.

5. ALTERNATIVES:

None.

6. ATTACHMENTS:

None.